

Listing of Claims

1 (Currently Amended). A method for generating a list of channel favorites in an interactive television system, comprising:

receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications;
and

updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the favorites tables includes a field that signifies a favorites display preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the updating includes adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the updating further includes incrementing a counter in a first channel view frequency field of the favorites table.

4 (Canceled).

5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a list of channels from the channel favorites table.

6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 5, wherein the list of channels is displayed according to the favorites display preference said field.

7(Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a viewer of the interactive television system.

8 (Canceled).

9 (Currently Amended). A method for generating a list of channel favorites in an interactive television system, comprising:

receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications;
and

updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the updating is performed if and only if the calculated time difference is larger than a threshold, wherein the threshold is about ten seconds.

10 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

11 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

12 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

13 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

receive a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receive a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculate a time difference between the first and the second notifications;
and

update a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the favorites tables includes a field that signifies a favorites display preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed.

14 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update includes adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table.

15 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update further includes incrementing a counter in a first channel view frequency field of the favorites table.

16 (Canceled).

17 (Previously Presented). The article of manufacture of claim 13, further comprising an instruction to display a list of channels from the channel favorites table.

18 (Currently Amended). The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the instruction to display includes an instruction to display the list of channels according to the favorites display preference said field.

19 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 13, further comprising an instruction to identify a viewer of the first and second channels.

20 (Canceled).

21 (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

receive a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receive a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculate a time difference between the first and the second notifications;

and

update a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the instruction to update is performed if and only if the calculated time difference is larger than a threshold, wherein the threshold is about ten seconds.

22 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

23 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

24 (Original). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

25 (Original). An apparatus for creating favorite channels in interactive television system, comprising:

means for receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

communicatively coupled to the means for receiving the first notification, means for receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

communicatively coupled to the means for receiving the second notification, means for calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

communicatively coupled to the calculating means, means for updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference.

26 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

a channel favorites table capable to store channel favorites of a viewer, wherein the channel favorites table is further capable to store a field that signifies the viewer's a display preference of a viewer for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed;

a generation engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to receive a notification, the notification indicating a channel activity, the generation engine further capable to calculate a time difference between receipt of notifications and to update the channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference; and

a display engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to display contents of the channel favorites table.

27 (Canceled).

28 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the display engine is capable to display contents of the channel favorites table according to the ~~display preference of a viewer~~ said field.

29 (Original). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine and display engine are further capable to identify the viewer.

30 (Original). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine is further capable to filter channel changes based on the calculated time difference.

31 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

a channel favorites table capable to store channel favorites of a viewer;

a generation engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to receive a notification, the notification indicating a channel activity, the generation engine further capable to calculate a time difference between receipt of notifications and to update the channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference; and

a display engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to display contents of the channel favorites table, wherein the generation engine filters channel changes if the calculated time difference is less than a threshold, wherein the threshold is about ten seconds.

32 (Original). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

33 (Original). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel activity includes selecting a channel.

34 (Original). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel activity includes viewing a channel.

35 (Original). A server that can be communicatively coupled to interactive television system, comprising:

means for receiving, from a set top box, a first electronic program guide notification, the first notification indicating a selection of a first channel;

means for receiving, from the set top box, a second electronic program guide notification, the second notification indicating a selection of a second channel;

means for calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

means for updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference.

36 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for creating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

a processor;

a generation engine executable by the processor and capable to generate a list including at least one favorite channel based upon a selection of a channel; and

a display engine executable by the processor and capable to enable the display of the list, wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon the numbers of times the respective channels has been watched, wherein a contiguous period of time watching a program is counted as one time regardless of the length of the period.

37 (Original). The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising:

a filter engine executable by the processor and capable to select a channel to be included in the list.

38 (Original). The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon an associated numeral of a channel.

39 (Original). The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon a viewing time of a channel.

40 (Canceled).

41 (Original). The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list is associated with a first identification.

42 (Original). The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the generation engine is capable to generate a second list associated with a second identification.

43-51 (Canceled).

52 (Currently Amended). A method of creating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

capturing channel viewing data related to a channel change event;

generating a list including at least one favorite channel based upon the captured channel viewing data; and

displaying the list for viewing, wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon the numbers of times the respective channels has been watched, wherein a contiguous period of time watching a program is counted as one time regardless of the length of the period.

53 (Original). The method of claim 52, further comprising:

analyzing the captured channel data to selectively add a channel to the list.

54 (Canceled).

55 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52 wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon an associated numeral of a channel.

56 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 52 wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon a viewing time of a channel.

57 (Canceled).

58 (Original). The method of claim 52, further comprising:

associating the list with a first identification.

59 (Original). The method of claim 52, further comprising:

generating a second list including at least one channel; and

associating the second list with a second identification.

60 (Canceled).

61 (Original). An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

means for capturing channel viewing data related to a channel change event; and

communicatively coupled to the capturing means, means for generating a list including at least one favorite channel based upon the captured channel viewing data.

62-64 (Withdrawn).

65-78 (Canceled).

79 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in a numerical order by channel number.

80 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in an order based on a number of times of each favorite channel has been viewed.

81 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in an order based on cumulative viewing time per channel.

82 (New). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in a numerical order by channel number.

83 (New). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in an order based on a number of times of each favorite channel has been viewed.

84 (New). The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in an order based on cumulative viewing time per channel.

85 (New). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in a numerical order by channel number.

86 (New). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in an order based on a number of times of each favorite channel has been viewed.

87 (New). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is in an order based on cumulative viewing time per channel.

88 (New). The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the generation engine ignores a selection of a channel if the channel was selected for a period of time sufficiently small to be indicative of channel surfing.

89 (New). The method of claim 52, further comprising:

ignoring a channel change event if the channel was selected for a period of time sufficiently small to be indicative of channel surfing.

90 (New). A method for generating a list of channel favorites in an interactive television system, comprising:

receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications;
and

updating a channel favorites table, which comprises a field indicative of cumulative time a channel has been watched and which further comprises a field indicative of the number of times said channel has been watched, by adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table and by incrementing a counter representing the number of times said channel has been watched in the favorites table.

91 (New). The method of claim 90, further comprising:

displaying a list of channels from the channel favorites table.

92 (New). The method of claim 90, wherein the list of channels is displayed in an order based on said cumulative time.

93 (New). The method of claim 90, wherein the list of channels is displayed in an order based on said counter.

94 (New). The method of claim 90, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

95 (New). The method of claim 90, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

96 (New). The method of claim 90, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

97 (New). An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

receive a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receive a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculate a time difference between the first and the second notifications;

and

update a channel favorites table, which comprises a field indicative of cumulative time a channel has been watched and which further comprises a field indicative of the number of times said channel has been watched, by adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table and by incrementing a counter representing the number of times said channel has been watched in the favorites table.

98 (New). An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

- a channel favorites table capable to store channel favorites of a viewer, wherein the channel favorites table is further capable to store cumulative times channel have been watched and to store counters indicative of the number of times said channels have been watched;

- a generation engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to receive a notification, the notification indicating a channel activity, the generation engine further capable to calculate a time difference between receipt of notifications and to update the channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference and to increment one of said counters based on the activity; and

- a display engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to display contents of the channel favorites table.